

OIT/TRIS
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28 JAN 1988

27 January 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Information Technology

FROM: [REDACTED] Director
Current Production and Analytic Support

SUBJECT: Electronic Release of Cables

Action Requested

1. That OIT install the necessary equipment and institute the procedures to allow the electrical transfer of the NID and PDB cables from the ETEC system to the MHF computers.

Background

2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These cables are prepared in P&PD's Electronic Editing and Text Composition System (ETECS) as an adjunct to the publication of the NID. After final editing, they are printed on special paper, tubed to the signal center, scanned into the communications computer system, and sent around the world. The printing-tubing-scanning process delays transmission of these cables for as much as two hours each night.

3. For years, critics have pointed out that the printing and rescanning process was a major waste of time and resources. However, a combination of technology, policy, and security concerns has prevented any changes being made in this obsolete procedure.

4. [REDACTED] of your office tells us that OIT is now working with a program called Softswitch, which would allow DEC-based computer systems--such as P&PD's ETECS--to send outgoing cables directly to the MHF communications computers. He believes an ETECS-MHF link could be installed at relatively little cost within a few months.

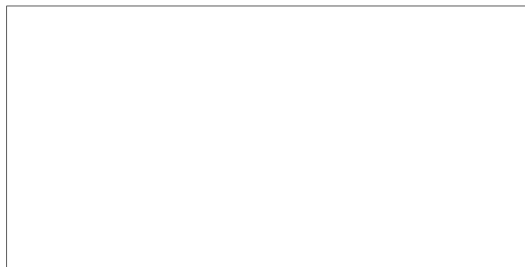
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5. We realize that your office and the Office of Security will want to examine closely any non-traditional procedures for the release of cables. My staff will be happy to assist in any way possible. The cables released by CPAS each night are finished intelligence cables, which go to a stable list of addressees on a daily basis. It would appear that the opportunities for the release of information into the wrong channels would be no greater via an electrical connection than under the current system.

6. This memorandum has been coordinated with the Printing and Photography Division of the Office of Logistics, which owns and operates the ETEC System. P&PD strongly supports the concept of directly releasing cables from ETECS to MHF.

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